GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3015
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
NATIONAL TEXTILE POLICY, 2000
Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Textile Policy, 2000 encouraged the shift of allocations from handloom sector to powerloom sector in the name of modernization;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to shift the focus on handloom sector again;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the share of handloom sectors in total textile export during each of the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The handloom sector also forms a part of the National Textile Policy 2000, the details of which are as under:-

The handloom sector is known for its heritage and the tradition of excellent craftsmanship. It provides livelihood to millions of weavers and craftsperson. The industry has not only survived but also grown over the decades due to its inherent strength like flexibility of production in small quantities, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense possibility of designing fabrics. Government will continue to accord priority to this sector. Steps would be taken to promote and develop its exclusiveness for the global market. Measure will include the following:-

Training modules will be developed for weavers engaged in the production of low value added items, who may not be able to survive the competition consequent on globalization, with the objective of upgrading their skills to enable them to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;
Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;
Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;
The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;
Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID;
As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success of the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

(d): Due to the absence of sectoral classification such as Mill made, powerloom, handloom etc. in the schedule of revised ITC (HS) codes adopted by the office of the Central Board of Excise and Customs w.e.f. 1.4.03, data for handloom exports could not be generated from 1.4.2003 onwards. As such, share of textile exports of handloom sector is not available from 1.4.2003 onwards. However, during 2002-03, the export of handlooms was Rs.2633.27 crore as per information furnished by HEPC.